

Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 L-02 MC-02 IGA-01 AID-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 NSC-05 /062 W

----- 121683

O R 111137Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9135

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSH TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 2113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK, IR, US

SUBJ: PAKISTANI INTEREST IN F-5 AIRCRAFT

REF: A. STATE 52784

B. TEHRAN 2259

1. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION REGARDING REPORTED
PAKISTANI PLANS TO OBTAIN 50 F-5 AIRCRAFT FROM IRAN
ALTHOUGH IN PAST TWO WEEKS EMBASSY INFORMATION OFFICER
HAS HEARD RUMORS TO THIS EFFECT. AFP CORRESPONDENT
JUVENAL MIGHT HAVE PICKED RUMORS UP FROM OTHER
JOURNALISTS. NEW TIMES MARCH 9
RAN STORY, DATELINED NEW DELHI, WHICH QUOTED ALL
INDIA RADIO AS SAYING PAKISTAN WOULD OBTAIN 50 F-104
AIRCRAFT, MODERN TANKS AND RADAR EQUIPMENT WORTH
OVER 130 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE US.
IN ADDITION, THIS ACCOUNT SAID PAF WOULD GET ANOTHB
SQUADRON OF MIRAGES FROM FRANCE.

2. ODRP OFFICER TO MEET WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS AND
WILL QUERY PAKS AS TO THEIR INTENTIONS RE IRANIAN F5S;
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WE WILL REPORT ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT WE DEVELOP FROM THIS.

3. DEFENSE ATTACHE (DA) RELATES THAT PAKISTANIS HAVE IN PAST VOICED SOME INTEREST IN THIS AIRCRAFT. A SQUADRON OF PAF OFFICERS WERE TRAINED ON THE F-5 IN TURKEY DURING THE 71 WAR AND REPORTEDLY CAME BACK QUITE TAKEN WITH IT. HOWEVER, BOTH FORMER AIR FORCE CHIEF CHAUDHRY AND INCUMBENT A.A. KHAN HAVE TOLD DA THAT THEY WERE NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN THE F-5A SINCE PRODUCTION OF THE F-5E COMMENCED.

4. REF B, PARA 3. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CURRENT VISIT TO PAKISTAN OF IRANIAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER, GENERAL KHATAMI MAY BE RELATED TO SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE THIRD COUNTRY SALES. WE CONSIDER IT LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THIS VISIT PLANNED BEFORE CHANGE IN US POLICY ANNOUNCED AND IS ONE IN A SERIES OF VISITS AMONG HIGH RANKING IRANIAN, TURKISH AND PAKISTANI OFFICERS DEVOTED AS MUCH TO GENERATING GOOD WILL AS ANYTHING ELSE.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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